

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A programmable controller suitable for use in a globally distributed automation network. In addition, a universal management engineering and information system for such a globally distributed automation network is described. It is used in a globally distributed automation network.

1. A programmable controller suitable for use in a globally distributed automation network, comprising:  
a. a microprocessor;  
b. a memory; and  
c. a communication interface for connecting the controller to a network.